

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231403

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. EGYPT'S WAR MINISTER ON PEACE AND WAR

MEETING WITH CODEL STRATTON IN CAIRO, EGYPTIAN WAR MINISTER ISMAIL REMARKED THAT THE ISRAELI FORCES ON THE WEST BANK OF THE CANAL ARE IN A PRECARIOUS POSITION AND FACE ENCLOSURE IF FIGHTING RESUMES AND THE EGYPTIAN 2ND ARMY CHOOSES TO MOVE SOUTH FROM ISMAILIA TO THE BITTER LAKE. ISMAIL REJECTED THE ISRAELI IDEA OF A MUTUAL WITHDRAWAL TO OCTOBER 5 LINES AND THOUGHT A SEPARATION OF FORCES SHOULD OCCUR ON THE EAST BANK AFTER ISRAEL RETIRES TO ITS OCTOBER 22 POSITIONS. USINT CAIRO COMMENTS THAT THE WAR MINISTER'S VIEWS SEEM TO ENVISAGE A DEMILITARIZATION OF THE SINAI WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE EGYPTIAN UNITS ALREADY ON THE SCENE. (CONFIDENTIAL) CAIRO 3627, 11/24.

2. NO SAUDI-SOVIET RELATIONS FOR NOW

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SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAQQAF INFORMED

EMBASSY JIDDA THAT, IN SPITE OF REPORTS TO THE CONTRARY, SAUDI ARABIA IS NOT ABOUT TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN, HE ADDED,

AS LONG AS FAISAL IS KING EVEN THOUGH THE KINGDOM HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM OTHER ARAB STATES TO RENEW RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. (CONFIDENTIAL) JIDDA 5178, 11/24.

3. ARABS TO TREAT JAPAN LIKE EC COMMUNITY

SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAQQAF HAS TOLD EMBASSY JIDDA THAT JAPAN WILL BE PLACED IN THE SAME POSITION AS MOST OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY REGARDING OIL CUTBACKS. CALLING TOKYO'S STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION "VERY SATISFACTORY," SAQQAF SAID JAPAN WILL BE EXEMPTED FROM THE FIVE PERCENT CUTBACK AS OF DECEMBER 1, BUT WILL NOT ENJOY THE STATUS OF A PREFERRED STATE. (CONFIDENTIAL) JIDDA 5181, 11/25. KISSINGER

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